

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-15 PA-04 PRS-01 COME-00

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APPROVED BY CU/CP;MBLEWIS

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P 242223Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT DAMASCUS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OEXC:SY

SUBJECT:CU/CP:DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR:FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY BAND

REF: STATE 133922

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND
PRESS RELEASE RE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND. DEPARTMENT
RECOMMENDS, IF POSSIBLE, SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN
WASHINGTON AND DAMASCUS AT APPROPRIATE DATE AND TIME TO BE
AGREED UPON BY DEPARTMENT, USINT DAMASCUS AND SYRIAN GOVT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: (DATELINE) "THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TODAY
ANNOUNCED AMERICAN CULTURAL PARTICIPATION IN THE 1974
DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR.

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"WHEN PRESIDENT NIXON VISITED DAMASCUS JUNE 16 HE ADVISED

SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD THAT THE U.S. ACCEPTED 'WITH PLEASURE' THE SYRIAN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FAIR. U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATION AT THE FAIR IS BEING ARRANGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

"THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ALSO REQUESTED AN AMERICAN CULTURAL PRESENTATION, AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY THAT THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND OF TALLAHASSEE WILL BE A MAJOR PART OF THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATION AT THE FAIR. A U.S. SPACE EXHIBIT IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO BE ON DISPLAY.

"THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND'S APPEARANCES ALSO WERE ANNOUNCED TODAY IN DAMASCUS.

"THE UNIVERSITY BAND OF 150 STUDENTS WILL PERFORM DURING THE FINAL TEN DAYS OF THE FAIR LATE IN AUGUST. THE FULL BAND WILL PERFORM IN THE DAMASCUS FOOTBALL STADIUM, SEATING 25,000 PEOPLE, AND SEPARATE ENSEMBLES OF THE BAND WILL GIVE CONCERTS IN SYRIAN THEATRES DURING AND AFTER THE FAIR.

"THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND, DIRECTED BY RICHARD D. MAYO, IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE TALLAHASSEE APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 11 AND RETURN TO FLORIDA APPROXIMATELY AUGUST 23.

"STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID THEY VIEWED AMERICAN PARTICIPATION AT THIS YEAR'S DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AS A SYMBOL OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES. SOME THIRTY-FIVE COUNTRIES ARE TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE FAIR." END TEXT.

3. DO YOU CONCUR SUGGESTED TEXT? ADVISE ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES.

4. CAN YOU COORDINATE WITH SYRIAN GOVT. FOR SIMULTANEOUS PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT?

5. WHAT IS BEST DATE AND TIME FOR SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT FROM YOUR AND SYRIAN POINT OF VIEW? DEPARTMENT IS FLEXIBLE ABOUT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT.
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6. FOR DAMASCUS AND EMB BEIRUT:

A. SINCE SEVERAL U.S. MEDIA REPS, SUCH AS WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINES AND TELEVISION REPS, ARE LOCATED BEIRUT, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE FOR EMB BEIRUT TO ADVISE THEM AFTER PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. PARTICIPATION DAMASCUS FAIR, INCLUDING VISUAL UNIVERSITY BAND. ADVISE.

B. DOES DAMASCUS BELIEVE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN FAIR
SHOULD BE LOCALLY PUBLICIZED IN BEIRUT? FYI: IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT BAND BE BILLED ONLY AS FLORIDA STATE
UNIVERSITY BAND, NOT MARCHING CHIEFS (STATE 133922).
END FYI. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE135635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TCK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740165-1128
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740618/aaaaapew.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 133922
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U/CP:DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR:FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY BAND
TAGS: OEXC, SY
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005